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SOCIOLOGICAL NOTES.

The Winona (Minn.) Social Science Club.*—The organization of clubs for the study of society gives occasion for some remarks upon their significance and possibilities. The local social science club in some form is being called into existence by a general demand, natural and inevitable, for greater knowledge concerning social growth, structure, and function. (The word social is here used in its largest sense.) It is not enough that the universities and colleges shall be centres for the study of these things. All the people must get a better and clearer understanding of them. The local social science club is one of the best means by which such understanding can be promoted among large numbers of people, and such clubs become local centers for the further propagation of social intelligence. This study of society when properly pursued stimulates a greater interest in local institutions and public welfare. It reveals the reality of social forces, and the vital significance of the relations existing between the manifold variety of social activities. It is an essential addition to the educational influences already at work to make men better fitted to live in the ever-enlarging social life, and do efficiently the duties of citizens. It can be made the common ground for all classes, sects, and parties of citizens who seek to promote legitimate public interests and the most desirable public sentiment. There is no better subject for the encouragement of adult education; and no phase of our public education needs supplementing more sadly than the socio-civic. It is by far the best of all subjects for showing the unity and relations of all other subjects, and their bearing upon man's life. Such work will contribute to a more comprehensive outlook upon state and national institutions, and the gigantic economic enterprises of our land. Thus it will do something toward removing the mystery that attaches to unknown forces, or those but meagrely understood. These local clubs, when the membership includes some who have had training in scientific methods, might become important auxiliaries to the university in gathering sociological data for scientific purposes.

But the limits of this note will not permit a further consideration of the general aspects of the topic. The following account of the

* Contributed by Professor Manfred J. Holmes, Normal, Ill. Winona, Minn., had 18,208 inhabitants according to the United States census of 1890.—Ed.

first year's work at Winona will be given under four heads: (1) Its organization; (2) its personnel; (3) its program; (4) what it accomplished.

In the winter of 1896 Professor Zueblin delivered in Winona a course of lectures on Social Reform in Fiction, which aroused quite a general and deep interest in social studies. This opportunity was seized upon by some of the citizens to organize a social science club. Its constitution was very simple—an executive committee of five members, the chairman of which was president of the club; a committee on original studies, and one on current bibliography; also a secretary-treasurer. Meetings were held bi-weekly from October to May. A year's work was laid out in advance; but the work of the committees on original study and current bibliography gave ample flexibility and freedom for introducing current topics at any time it seemed best.

From the personnel of the club it was seen that some general acquaintance with the nature of the subject-matter and the method of study were some of the first needs. Also, that there would have to be a season for unification of spirit and purpose. The importance of this is obvious when it is known that, though the membership was purely voluntary, an invitation being extended to all, it was the aim to get together representatives of as many different economic classes, political parties, religious sects, and nationalities as possible—here to meet on common ground, not to represent the various parties, sects, and classes, but as fellow-members of one community to consider things of common interest. In this the club was not a disappointment, for it is surprising what a variety of people, as to wealth, religion, politics and economic status, found themselves appropriately brought together in recognition of most important relations and common ties. The business classes were well represented, but no merchants, day laborers or preachers, with one exception, came in. A special effort was to be made this year to remedy this defect. Nine universities and colleges were represented. This was significant in its suggestion that the college graduate is coming to find his place in the common life of his community; also, that the higher institutions of learning are touching the people more and more in a generally useful way. The central theme decided upon was the view of the general field of social phenomena given in Small and Vincent's "Introduction to the Study of Society." To give the work reality and concreteness original studies and themes were introduced. Of the original studies we might mention (1) the early history of the community, (2) a social analysis of the local institutions, (3) difference in opportunity to satisfy the wants

of man as observed in Winona, etc. The studies of general interest were reported in the local papers with a view to extending as much as possible the local thought upon these subjects. Two studies of special interest had to be carried over into the second year. One was the study of leisure to get a glimpse of the disposition of time and energy not consumed by economic activity, nor regular duties. This study pursued on a large scale would no doubt reveal some significant tendencies. The other arose out of the economic conditions likely to be found in a river lumbering town. The economic enterprises of Winona are not very varied, the lumber business being the chief one. A considerable proportion of the laboring population is dependent upon the labor furnished by the saw mills, which run about six or seven months of the year, leaving a considerable proportion of the mill hands to find a precarious support during the remaining months. The problem was (1) what is the economic status of that portion of the population thus affected by the regular suspension of their regular means of support; (2) what, in view of the rapid exhaustion of the lumber forests of the upper Mississippi, will probably be the economic readjustment of this population? Will it be a menace to the community in the shape of pauperism and criminal proclivities, or will an increase in the number and variety of industries relieve the situation? Of the special themes there were reviews of books and articles bearing on some phase of the year's study. For the sake of giving greater definiteness and suggestion of unity in the work a syllabus was printed showing the course and scope of the year's work; and in this syllabus the special themes and original studies were revealed in their proper relation to the larger subject. No small amount of care and firmness on the part of the officers had to be exercised in establishing the idea that a social science club is not a civic federation, nor a law and order league. Certainly, the social science club should make for more efficient service and life in promoting the most favorable conditions of government and society. This, indeed, is the fundamental and ultimate purpose of such study. But a club for the study of society will be deprived of most of its opportunity for usefulness when it abandons its legitimate business to be the target and imaginary enemy of considerable numbers in the community. It is truly a school for adult education, and should retain its character as such.

What was accomplished? is the legitimate question of the man of science and the man of affairs. It was largely a year of preparation, formation and unification. It gave some rich suggestions as to what could be done in this line; and the club was ready for

a second year of more energetic activity and profitable work. The writer's convictions and opinions embodied in these notes are all confirmed by what he saw necessary and possible in the line of social training and study while associated with the work at Winona.

Attention should here be called to the fact that the universities in their extension work have a rare opportunity for the encouragement and direction of the study of society in the various communities touched by their work.

Public Charities of New York City.—The State Charities Aid Association of New York is generally recognized as one of the strongest private organizations in the country, exerting an influence commensurate only with that of the State Board of Charities in pointing out the needs and abuses in connection with the public charities of the state. This association works in harmony with the New York State Board of Charities, and to some extent supplements its efforts. One of its departments is the so-called New York County Visiting Committee, which deals with the public charities of New York City. The twenty-fifth annual report of the visiting committee covers the several public hospitals in the city, the training school for nurses at the Bellevue Hospital, the almshouses for men and women, the city lodging-houses, and other public institutions. This is the first report that covers the operations of an entire year of the Department of Public Charities as now constituted.

Since January 1, 1896, the correctional institutions of New York City, including the penitentiary, workhouses, city prison and district prisons, have been organized as a Department of Correction, and since February 28, 1896, the New York City asylums for the insane have been transferred to the state and reorganized as the Manhattan State Hospital. This still leaves a considerable number of public institutions belonging to the Department of Public Charities.

The report speaks in the most encouraging terms of the improvement in the hospitals in the matter of nursing. With reference to the almshouses the general complaint of overcrowding has been provided for by the erection of several new model buildings. The census of the almshouses on October 1, 1897, shows, however, an increase in the number of inmates of very nearly one hundred. The great gain in the administration of the almshouses to which the visitors call attention consists in the elimination of unpaid helpers. Formerly, persons from the prison department were used as helpers, much to the detriment of the inmates and to the moral deterioration of the whole institution. Attention was called during

the year to some irregularities in the management of the steward. The charges reported by the committee to the Commissioners of Charities for consideration were dismissed practically without investigation; but the facts were then laid before the mayor, and since that date the office of the steward of almshouses has been abolished. The committee still finds reason to criticise the quality of the food provided, particularly in the almshouse hospitals.

In the concluding pages of the report a few comparative statements are made in this, the twenty-fifth annual report, with those contained in the first annual report published February 1, 1873, which seem to indicate that very substantial progress has been made in dealing with the problem, of the almshouse, which is perhaps one of the most difficult questions in the administration of public charities.

College, Social and University Settlements.—The eighth annual report of the College Settlements' Association* gives an account of the activities of the Women's Settlements in Boston, New York and Philadelphia. This pamphlet contains a separate statement relating to each of these three settlements, together with some account of the efforts of the association which encourages, guides, and, to some extent, controls this work. There seems to be no abatement in numerous kinds of efforts put forth in the clubs and societies organized within each of these settlements to provide for the healthy amusement and education of the special classes of nationalities represented in their respective districts.

"A Bibliography of College, Social and University Settlements," compiled by Mr. John Palmer Gavit, the editor of the *Commons*, has been prepared for the College Settlements' Association. It comprises a pamphlet of 74 pages, published from the same press as the eighth annual report, already alluded to, and contains as a frontispiece a wood-cut of Arnold Toynbee. It is issued as a third revised and enlarged edition of the bibliography which has been published for several years by this association and whose usefulness has been very generally recognized. The new edition, however, contains several new features. In the first place, the editor announces it as his purpose to furnish a complete volume to serve as a handbook and directory of the college settlements of the world. It gives a brief description of each settlement, arranged alphabetically as to cities in which the settlements are located, beginning with American settlements, and following with those in Great Britain and finally those in Asia and Africa. The description of each settlement is sufficient to indicate the character of its work, and includes references to other sources of information

* Pp. 44. Cambridge: Co-operative Press, 1897.

describing that work. Miss Susan G. Walker contributes a brief statement concerning the organization of the College Settlements' Association, and the editor furnishes an introductory chapter on social settlements. He says that underlying the settlement movement "a condition and a source of the main impulse is the new sense of the absolute unity of the race. The philanthropic pity for misfortune, the charitable desire to administer out of plenty to want, is often, perhaps usually, the impulse that draws the individual towards the 'slum;' but the conviction which grows to be the lasting inspiration of the settlement movement is the sense of unity of interest. The settlement is a great modern protest against the heresy that wealth makes character; that education can establish an aristocracy; that one can rise to a social pinnacle without obligation to those that have contributed to that rise; that men are by nature divided into classes by virtue of what they 'do' and 'have,' rather than of what they 'are.' Settlement life unites in simple social intercourse men of varied training and thought, permits them to share one another's knowledge, culture and vigor, and inspires them to use the greater power thus acquired in concerted efforts for the welfare of the community." Again, the editor defines a social settlement as "a person or group of persons (whether an actual family or not) desiring for mutual benefit to share their lives and culture with their fellow-men, taking up their residence somewhere—anywhere—in the impulse to express this desire and make their home a social centre for the community."

In addition to a brief statement concerning each settlement referred to, and a good index to this material, the pamphlet in hand contains a selected bibliography of books and periodical literature relating to settlements, and is, therefore, a useful source of information to the students of all phases of this movement.

The fourth annual report of the Kingsley House Association, Pittsburg, situated at 1709 Penn avenue, covering work for the year ending June 16, 1897, contains a brief account of the work done in that community. Although this settlement is composed of women workers, it is not under the jurisdiction of the College Settlements' Association. The report states that in no city of the United States is there the same demand for trained workers and skilled mechanics as in Pittsburg, and the report shows, furthermore, that some attempt has been made along the line of industrial training to render help in those directions.

The Liquor Traffic in New York.—The second annual report of the State Commissioner of Excise of the State of New York for the year ending September 30, 1897, was transmitted to the

legislature on January 17, 1898. The report in full has not yet been published, but the advance sheets of its important sections contain many items of general interest. The commissioner reports, in the first place, that the law works more smoothly, so far as its administration is concerned, since the people have become more familiar with its provisions, and those engaged in the liquor traffic, as well as the consumers of intoxicants, have adjusted themselves more fully to its conditions. The total receipts from the sale of liquor tax certificates and from transfers and fines for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1897, amounted to \$12,267,012.59. Deducting from this amount the county treasurers' fees there was a balance of \$12,205,524.28, of which the state received one-third and the towns and cities two-thirds. During the year 30,887 liquor tax certificates of all kinds were issued, and 27,953 remained in force on October 1, 1897. Comparing this with the period of twelve months prior to the enforcement of the new law, it shows a reduction in the number of drinking places of 5484.

The income received from the traffic under the new law shows an interesting contrast with the income under the old law. For example, for the twelve months ending September 30, 1896, under the old law the income was a little over \$3,000,000 and the cost of collecting it amounted to 8.65 per cent; while the results of one year's experiment from October 1, 1896, to October 1, 1897, under the new law show receipts amounting to over \$12,000,000 and the cost of collecting 2.67 per cent.

Mr. H. H. Lyman, the State Commissioner, discusses the financial results of the year in their relation to New York City, which he says is frequently cited as the one great sufferer from the present system of collecting and distributing the tax. He shows that the net revenue from the tax for the state amounted to \$5,392,275 20, of which the city received two-thirds, or \$3,594,850.13. Deducting the amount which it paid into the state treasury from the sum it received in rebated state taxation on the basis of the equalization table of 1897, there still seems to be a direct benefit to the city of New York in the state treasury, over and above what it pays to the state, a sum amounting to \$45,003.23; while the total benefit to the city revenues under the law amounts to nearly \$5,500,000. The actual number of certificates in force in the city of New York on October 1, 1897, was 7686.

The local option feature under the new law seems to be, in the opinion of the commissioner, much more effectual in reflecting the real sentiment of the several communities than it has been under previous legislation. The present law gives the electors the oppor-

tunity of voting directly and separately upon four questions: First, in relation to selling liquor to be drunk on the premises; second, selling liquor not to be drunk on the premises where sold; third, selling liquor as a pharmacist on physicians' prescriptions; fourth, selling liquor by hotel-keepers. Of the 942 towns in the state 62 voted on these questions in the spring of 1896, and 880 in the spring of 1897. The results show that pretty generally throughout the state the propriety of the sale of liquors by hotels and pharmacists is recognized. While the report shows that there are twenty towns which are less absolutely "no license" towns than when the law took effect, the commissioner states that there are many less saloons and groceries where liquors are dispensed. A summary of the actual vote in the 942 towns is given as follows: For no sales whatever, 263; for sales by pharmacists only, 34; for sales by hotels only, 105; for sales by pharmacists and hotels only, 117; for sales under all four provisions, 359. The balance, 64 towns, is divided variously upon the different questions.

The question has been raised whether under the new law, which seems to have resulted in a diminution of the number of drinking places, there has not been an increased amount of drinking and drunkenness. The records of the office of the secretary of state furnish very meagre statistics upon this point, and the commissioner has found it impossible to obtain any reliable statistics of the kind going back any length of time, because prior to 1895 very few local magistrates kept any permanent or complete records. According to the law of May 23, 1895, the justices of the peace are required to keep a justices' criminal docket, which is open to public inspection. During the month of October, 1897, special agents of the Department of State Excise examined this docket and reported the number of arrests recorded upon charges of "drunk," "drunk and disorderly," "intoxication" and "public intoxication," all being tabulated under the one head for the years 1895, 1896 and 1897, up to and including September 30.

Of course these figures are not absolutely satisfactory indices of local conditions because different localities enforce the statutes against drunkenness and kindred crimes with varying rigor and on diverse theories. The commissioner states that "in some instances the docket records show a tendency on the part of officials to conceal real causes of arrest. Some justices never convict and others always do when warranted by evidence. In some localities drunkenness is hardly considered a crime of which official cognizance should be taken. In others, apparently little heed has been given to the statute requiring the criminal docket to be kept." This investiga-

tion, furthermore, gives the results only of incorporated villages or cities where there are police officials. It may be said, however, that there are apt to be few of the justices of the peace in the towns who have any criminal cases of this character. The figures as collated in this manner show arrests for drunkenness in 1895 to have been 81,893; in 1896, 78,095; in 1897, up to September 30, 59,204. In the forty-one cities of the state the corresponding figures were 72,660; 69,883; 52,689; and, in the 424 incorporated villages, 9,233; 8,212; 6,515, respectively.

Organized Charity in Washington, D. C.—Constant progress is being made in the matter of the general charities of the District. Two years ago the associated charities was re-organized on the principles of the charity organization societies in Boston, New York, Baltimore, etc., and became an organization of administration; last year, upon request by this society, a citizens' central relief committee was appointed by the commissioners of the District, that there might be a source of relief for miscellaneous cases applying to the associated charities, and for whom no other resource could be found; this year the commissioners have decided that the Police Department shall discontinue the distribution of relief. Before coming to this decision a conference was held with a number of the leading citizens, who strongly advocated the separation of relief-giving from the police. The money—\$1,000 or \$2,000—which formerly was given to the police to distribute, and which is the interest on surplus money contributed to two inaugural funds by citizens of the District, and is therefore not public money raised by taxation, will be given to the citizens' central relief committee. These two citizens' organizations, together with the public office of superintendent of charities, the incumbent of which has general supervision as a public official over all institutions receiving public revenues, form the basis of a clear, distinct and comprehensive general system of charities.

The Federation of Churches and Christian Workers in New York City.—This organization was formed in 1895. It aims: (1) at undenominational co-operation in accumulating data to direct the extension of the Kingdom of God in New York City; (2) undenominational community in the knowledge acquired; (3) the improvement of the denominational care of the city; (4) the improvement of the service rendered to the districts investigated by the churches and charities within them by the formation of auxiliaries locally administered; (5) undenominational expression of opinion and action; (6) the inauguration of such other work as cannot better be done by some agency other than the Federation.

In 1896 seven churches united in making a house-to-house canvass of Assembly District No. 15 in New York city, which contains a population of 40,000 persons. The district lies between Forty-third and Fifty-third streets and runs irregularly from Eighth avenue to the Hudson river. Rev. Walter Laidlaw was engaged by the Federation to draw up the schedules, superintend the staff of enumerators, and prepare a full report based on the returns. That report, published over a year ago, contains a very detailed statement of the social conditions in that district. The statistics are ingeniously illustrated by diagrams and charts, and the results have been utilized in very materially increasing the efficiency of a number of agencies for social reform working in that section of the city. It is announced that eight churches are making a house-to-house investigation of Assembly District No. 17 and that they have divided it among them as permanent special parishes.

The second report recently issued, however, deals with the Nineteenth Assembly District. It is a tenement-house section lying between Sixtieth and Sixty-eighth streets and between Columbus avenue and the Hudson river, and containing a population of 19,717 persons. The report covers statistics on: (1) Family, Age and Sex; (2) Public and Sunday Schools; (3) Churches and Denominations; (4) Housing and Overcrowding; (5) Economics. This work was also conducted by Rev. Walter Laidlaw under the direction of an Investigation Committee composed of Robert Graham, Chairman; C. Loring Brace, Edward T. Devine, Ph. D., Homer Folks, Professor Franklin H. Giddings, E. R. L. Gould, Ph. D., R. R. McBurney, Professor Richmond Mayo-Smith, Jacob A. Riis, Rev. Josiah Strong, D. D., William Howe Tolman, Ph. D., and Spencer Trask, Ex-officio.

The whole report covers one hundred and sixteen pages, including a large number of texts devoted to a discussion of the tables of statistics and diagrams. The material is divided into several chapters:

- I. Family Statistics of the Tenement House Regions of the Nineteenth District.
- II. Age and Sex Classification.
- III. Public School Statistics.
- IV. Sunday School Statistics.
- V. Religious Statistics.
- VI. Denominational Statistics.
- VII. Housing Statistics.
- VIII. Economic Statistics, which is chiefly a discussion of wages.
- IX. Environment for Good and Evil and Organization for Social Evolution.

These reports should serve as models for the dissemination of similar information by churches and philanthropic bodies in connection with work in all our large cities. Without such information this work is apt to prove aimless and wholly inefficient; but with intelligent use of such material as is presented in this report, the usefulness of social reform efforts might easily be increased many fold.